



Island Gazette

*The latest news & tips for U.S. citizens in
Jamaica and the Cayman Islands from U.S. Embassy Kingston*

Winter 2013-2014

Kingston Welcomes Consul General Mike Schimmel

The U.S. Embassy in Kingston is pleased to introduce its new Consul General, Mike Schimmel, who arrived in September to replace outgoing CG David Stone. Mr. Schimmel comes to us from Manila, in The Philippines, where he also served in that capacity.

Mr. Schimmel is very much at home in the Caribbean, having served as Consul General in Santo Domingo and in Consular leadership roles in Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Belize over the span of his 26 year career. (He has also served in Canada, and in Ghana, West Africa.

The new Consul General is accompanied by his wife, Susan, with whom he has two university-age children. We hope you meet him soon!

Embassy Kingston Bids Farewell to Ambassador Bridgewater

Jamaica bade a fond farewell to Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater on November 25, 2013, as she concluded her three-year tour on the island.

The Ambassador also concluded her distinguished diplomatic career of more than three decades.

We hope to introduce her successor, whose confirmation by the U.S. Senate is pending, in our next newsletter.



American Citizen Services Appointments

Please note that all non-emergency services require an appointment. These services include passport applications, applications for additional passport pages, Consular Report of Birth Abroad applications, and notarial services.

All visitors to the Embassy are required to undergo a security check. Electronic items, including cell phones, cameras, beepers, and pagers, are prohibited on the Embassy compound and should be secured elsewhere before entering the Embassy. The Embassy reserves the right to limit the entry of possessions and does not have the means to store these items.

For more information visit:
<http://kingston.usembassy.gov>

Spread the Word about STEP!

Are you registered with our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)? Whether you are in Jamaica or the Cayman Islands temporarily or for an extended period of time, please register with STEP so that we can better assist you in case of an emergency. Registration can be completed online at **step.state.gov**. If you do not register, we will not know how to reach you to share important emergency messages or information about upcoming meetings for U.S. citizens!

ATTENTION U.S. CITIZENS: WE WANT YOU



TO BE A WARDEN

A Warden is a private U.S. citizen who volunteers to assist the American Citizen Services section in communicating with Americans in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, preparing for disasters, and alerting Americans to emergency situations.

If you are interested in being a warden, the first step is to register with us at: www.step.state.gov. Then, email kingstonacs@state.gov to request to be added to our warden list.

Affordable Healthcare Act

Questions about whether you qualify for the minimum essential coverage requirement of the Affordable Care Act while living outside of the U.S.?

Information is available at:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/living_1234.html#affordable

Cayman Consular Agency Moves to New Location

As of November 18th, the U.S. Consular Agency in Grand Cayman is located at Smith Road Centre. By appointment, U.S. citizens can submit applications to the Consular Agency for U.S. passports and to register the births of U.S. citizen children born in the Cayman Islands. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 8am – 1pm and can be made by calling (345) 945-8173 or by emailing CaymanACS@state.gov.

Spotlight on our Services: Federal Benefits

As of October 1st, the Social Security Regional Office administering assistance to beneficiaries in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands made region-wide operational changes. The regional office provides assistance that includes: acceptance of first-time applications for retirement and disability benefits; changes of address; social security number applications; assistance with non-receipt of checks and related problem solving.

If you have a question about social security, you should first email SJRegion@ssa.gov. Please include the information below in your email and you will receive a response within 48 hours.

Subject Line: Nature of Inquiry – Resident Country – Last 4 digits of SSN

Name:

Claim or Social Security #:

E-mail address:

Home Telephone:

Cell Telephone:

Complete Mailing Address:

(If applicable, please include the Representative Payee's date of birth, social security number and phone numbers.)

Details of Inquiry:

Please note that you can also apply online for social security benefits including retirement, auxiliary benefits at: www.socialsecurity.gov.

To have your documents certified and submitted for social security purposes, you may come to the Embassy on **Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30 and 11:00am**. No appointment is necessary.

For additional information about Federal Benefits and the American Citizen Service Section, please visit: http://kingston.usembassy.gov/federal_benefits2.html

Contact Us

Embassy of the United States of America – Kingston American Citizen Services Section

Monday - Friday, 7:15 AM - 4:00 PM

142 Old Hope Road Kingston 6

(876) 702-6450 (business hours)

(876) 702-6000 (after-hours emergencies)

Email: KingstonACS@state.gov

Website: <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/service.html>

U.S. Consular Agency - Montego Bay

Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Whitter Village, Ironshore

Unit EU-1 Montego Bay

(876) 953-0620

Email: MobayACS@state.gov

U.S. Consular Agency – Cayman Islands

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

150 Smith Road

Smith Road Center, Unit 202B

George Town, Grand Cayman

(345) 945-8173

CaymanACS@state.gov

Visa Inquiries

Non-Immigrant Visas: KingstonNIV@state.gov

Immigrant Visas: KingstonIV@state.gov

Or visit <http://kingston.usembassy.gov>